

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION REPORT**

**I. HEADING**

**Date:** June 14, 1996

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Removal Action Branch

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START

**Subject:** Pyridium Mercury Disposal Site No. 2 (Pyridium 2)  
Village of Harriman, Orange County, New York

**POLREP NO.:** Four and Final (4)

**II. BACKGROUND**

**Site No.:** EZ  
**Response Authority:** CERCLA  
**NPL Status:** Non-NPL  
**State Notification:** NYSDOH notified  
**Action Memo Status:** Authorization on 09/29/95  
**Start Date(verbal):** 02/27/95 (Verbal Authorization)  
**Completion Date:** 03/09/95  
**Restart Date:** 10/20/95  
**Completion Date:** 06/06/96

**III. SITE INFORMATION**

**A. Site Description**

**1. Site location**

The Pyridium Mercury Disposal Site No. 2 is a residential property located at 40 South Main St., Village of Harriman, Orange County, New York. The site is a ¼-acre residential property, back-filled with mercury-contaminated industrial waste. A two-story, nineteenth century farmhouse predating the waste disposal activities is located at the Site. For the past three years, a

woman and her two small children have rented the house.

In the early 1950s, approximately 15 truckloads of waste were allegedly dumped in an L-shaped pattern in the front yard. The waste was allegedly a mercuric or mercurous salt generated during the production of niacinamide (vitamin B-3) by the former Pyridium Corporation. The waste was used to back-fill low-lying areas in the front yard.

Site investigations, conducted by the EPA and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) in October and December 1994, indicated that approximately 500 cubic yards of waste were used as back-fill. Analytical results of the waste samples indicate mercury concentrations as high as 477 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg). Typical soil background mercury concentrations are less than 1 mg/kg in this geographic location.

On November 17, 1994, the EPA Environmental Response Team (ERT) and the Response Engineering and Analytical Contractor (REAC) collected dust samples from inside the home. Mercury was detected at concentrations of 1.38 mg/kg and 2.06 mg/kg in two samples.

The EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) informed the resident of the site investigation results and advised her to limit use of the contaminated areas.

On February 27, 1995, EPA mobilized ERCS to the site to install a chain link fence in the back of the house which provided a safe, mercury waste free environment for the children and the family pet to play. The pre-existing fence in the front of the property was modified to enclose the main area of contamination. The front fence was secured with a locked gate to restrict access.

On March 8, the rooms on the first floor of the residence were cleaned as a precautionary measure, in case the mercury waste had been tracked inside. All equipment and personnel were demobilized on March 8, 1995. This interim action was conducted by EPA under verbal authorization from the Division Director.

## **2. Description of Threat**

In January 1995, a Draft Health Consultation Report was prepared by the NYSDOH under a cooperative agreement with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). The report states that the Pyridium Mercury Disposal Site No. 2 is a public health hazard due to high mercury concentrations in the soils. Residents are



suspected to be at risk of kidney damage through mercury ingestion, inhalation and dermal contact. The draft Health Consultation was finalized on August 28, 1995.

#### IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION

##### A. Situation

###### 1. Current situation

The excavation of contaminated soil and backfilling to grade was completed in December 1995. Due to the inclement weather conditions, final restoration activities were delayed until the spring. Restoration activities which included regrading and seeding with grass were completed on June 6, 1996.

###### 2. Removal actions to date

On May 9 and 13, 1996, EPA and ERCS conducted a bid walk for the restoration of the property. Only 2 out of 9 companies contacted attended the meetings and submitted a bid. On June 6, 1996 the selected subcontractor filled the area of excavation to grade with 80 CY of certified clean fill and 40 CY of topsoil. After the soil was graded, the filled area was hydroseeded. The completion date for the current action is June 6, 1996, when EPA, ERCS and START demobilized upon completion of all activities specified in the Action Memorandum dated September 29, 1995.

###### 3. Enforcement

The Office of Regional Council is reviewing available site documentation to identify PRPs and will evaluate the viability of legal claims stated by Nepera.

##### B. Next Steps

None.

##### C. Key Issues

None.

## V. COST INFORMATION

The following are estimated costs for the removal action as of June 6, 1996:

	PROJECT CEILING	PREVIOUS COSTS	COSTS TO DATE	FUNDS REMAINING
ERCS Costs	\$302,000	\$12,000	\$113,500	\$ 188,500
START Costs	\$ 46,000	\$4,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 26,000
Contingency	\$ 61,000			\$ 61,000
EPA Cost	\$ 83,000	\$5,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 48,000
TOTAL PROJECT CEILING	\$492,000	\$21,000	\$168,500	\$ 323,500

The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure, which the EPA may include in any claims for cost recovery.

## VI. DISPOSITION OF WASTE

Wastestream	Medium	Quantity	Containment- Migration Control	Treatment	Disposal
Non-hazardous soil	solid	629 Tons	dump trailers	landfill	Chambers Development Co. Inc., Southern Alleghenies, Holsopple, PA